

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(9)

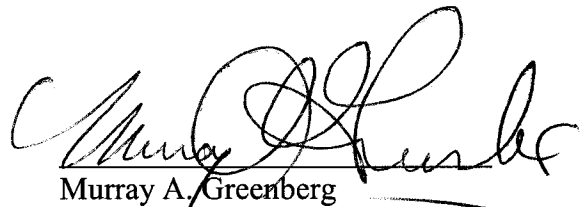
TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 1, 2005

FROM: Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution relating to the
feasibility of implementing a
program to offer discounted
water & sewer rates to senior
citizens and disabled citizens

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request
of Sen. Javier D. Souto.


Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

MAG/jls



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☐ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- ☐ No committee review

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(9)

Veto _____

11-01-05

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ISSUE A REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION BY THE MIAMI-DADE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT OF A PROGRAM TO OFFER DISCOUNTED WATER AND SEWER RATES TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND DISABLED CITIZENS WITH INCOMES BELOW \$25,000.00 PER YEAR

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department does not offer discounted utility rates to elderly and disabled customers like other utility companies within Miami-Dade County or like other water and sewer utility companies in most major cities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Bell South provides a \$13.50 discount off the monthly bill for Senior Citizens or disabled persons if the customer qualifies as needy based on eligibility for Medicaid or food stamps through the Lifeline program, which ensures that the basic telephone connection and service remain affordable to all residents of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida Power & Light offers emergency assistance to any customer in a crisis situation and unable to pay her or his electric bill by providing up to \$350.00 in assistance to pay a household electric bill during any 12 month period through the Care To Share Program; and

WHEREAS, Florida Power & Light also offers the 62Plus Payment Plan, which matches the bill due date to the arrival of a social security, disability or other government monthly benefit check in order to assist residents on fixed incomes manage their bills; and

WHEREAS, the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania offers a 25% Senior Citizen Discount Rate on monthly water and sewer bills to residents who are 65 years and older, as long as the bill is under the customer's name and the customer meets an annual income rate; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta, Georgia offers a 30% Senior Citizen Discount Rate on monthly water and sewer bills to residents who are 65 years and older, as long as the bill is under the customer's name and the maximum household income is \$25,000.00 or less; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts offers a 15% Senior Citizen Discount Rate, not to exceed \$90.00 annually, on monthly water and sewer bills to residents who are 65 years and older, and a 30% Senior Citizen Discount Rate, not to exceed \$180 annually, on monthly water and sewer bills to residents who are 70 years and older; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Tacoma and Seattle, Washington offer a 25% discount on monthly water and sewer bills and a 35% discount on their Solid Waste Utility to residents who are 62 years of age or disabled; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles, California offers a 15% discount on monthly water and sewer bills and garbage rates to residents who are 62 years of age or residents who are paraplegic, quadriplegic or afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis ; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to study the feasibility of establishing a program of discounted utility rates for elderly and disabled customers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. The County Manager is directed to conduct a feasibility study of a establishing a program, administered by the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department, to offer a 30% Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Discount Rate on monthly water and sewer bills, dating from January 2006, to residents who are 62 years and older or who receive disability income from the Social Security Administration, as long as the account and bill is under the customer's name and the maximum household income is \$25,000.00 or less.

Section 2. The County Manager's feasibility study and report should include all of the following: (1) the number of persons within Miami-Dade County who would be eligible for the proposed program under the criteria set forth in Section 1 (the "Target Population"); (2) the average savings to the Target Population on a monthly and yearly basis resulting from the proposed program; (3) the fiscal impact to the County, and any affected departments, of the proposed program based on estimated participation; (4) proposed rules and regulations, including program application, for the proposed program; (5) the proposed method for maximizing the number of applicants and participants from the Target Population, and (6) any other recommendations of the County Manager regarding the proposed program.

Section 3. The County Manager shall provide this Board a written report on his findings no later than 60 days following the passage of this resolution.

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The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Senator Javier D. Souto and offered by _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Carlos A. Gimenez
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordon
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of November, 2005. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency. AO

By: _____

Deputy Clerk

Angie Ortega